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ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
ENVIRONMENT AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
HEALTH
COMMERCE, TRADE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

2005 Legislative Accomplishments

Congressman Mike Rogers (MI)

January 3, 2006

From his positions on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Republican leadership team, Congressman Rogers worked in 2005 to achieve the following accomplishments:

Reducing Healthcare Costs

Medicaid Health Savings Accounts - *Approved by House*

- Authored the Medicaid Health Opportunity Account Act (H.R. 3757), which was approved by the U.S. House as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (H.R. 4241). This would allow individuals with low-incomes realize the power of control over their own healthcare decisions for the first time.

Pain Care Legislation - *Two Hearings Held*

- Held hearings in Lansing and Washington, DC at House Energy and Commerce Committee on Rogers' legislation, the National Pain Care Policy Act (H.R. 1020), to coordinate and create regional pain centers across the country to research pain management, help doctors and hospitals treat pain and develop an awareness campaign to educate the public. Chronic pain results in \$78 billion in lost productivity nationwide each year.

Association Health Plans - *Approved by House*

- Cosponsored legislation to create association health plans (AHPs). This legislation (H.R. 525) will assist small employers in offering affordable health insurance as a benefit to their workers.

Medical Liability Reform - *Approved by House*

- Supported legislation (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden that legal liability places on the health care delivery system. In the last five years, total medical liability costs jumped 47% to a record high of nearly \$27 billion.

State High Risk Pools - *Approved by House*

- Cosponsored legislation to extend state high risk pools to help states insure the chronically ill, who cannot otherwise obtain health insurance.

Protecting and Preserving Michigan Jobs

Enforcing U.S. Trade Agreements - *Approved by House*

- Provisions of two Rogers' bills, the Currency Rate Adjustment and Trade Enforcement Act (H.R. 2414) and the Trade Agreement Enforcement Act (H.R. 3271), were included in the U.S. Trade Rights Enforcement Act (H.R. 3283), approved by the U.S. House to hold China accountable for unfair trade practices. Illegal counterfeiting and intellectual property theft costs 750,000 American jobs each year.

Providing Tax Relief - *Approved by House*

- Cosponsored bipartisan legislation to prevent a tax increase to Michigan farmers and small business, known as the "death tax" (H.R.8).
- Worked to prevent massive tax increases on Medical Savings Accounts, IRAs, dividends that regular Americans use and live on every single day (H.R. 4297). The measure also provides important relief from the Alternative Minimum tax for many middle-class Americans.

Reforming Lawsuit Abuse - *Signed Into Law, Approved by House*

- Worked to pass into law bipartisan class action reform (S.5) which removes multistate lawsuits from a handful of courts in Illinois and Mississippi and places these national lawsuits in federal courts.
- Worked to pass into law bipartisan bankruptcy reform legislation (S.256) that will lower the cost of insurance and banking by requiring Americans to pay only the debts they can afford to pay.
- Worked to approve bipartisan legislation in the House (H.R. 554) to prohibit obesity or weight gain-related claims against the food industry.
- Cosponsored legislation approved by the House to curb frivolous lawsuits (H.R. 420). A family of four pays nearly \$3,000 per year in lawsuit-related costs.

Providing America's Energy Needs - *Signed Into Law, Approved by House*

- Rogers' provision to provide a common-sense update to fuel economy labels on new vehicles was included as part of Energy Policy Act (H.R. 6) which Rogers helped author and was signed into law. The bipartisan bill provides America's job providers and

manufacturers the reliable, affordable energy job providers need, while creating 500,000 new jobs in all sectors including manufacturing and technology.

- Rogers' provision to expand and promote car and vanpool programs approved by House as part of legislation to reduce demand for gasoline and increase the number of oil refineries in America (H.R. 3893).

Improving Michigan Roads

- Secured \$31.4 million in transportation funding for Michigan's 8th Congressional District.
The bipartisan transportation bill will provide at least \$6.4 billion for Michigan's roads from federal gas tax funds, which will create more than 50,000 jobs in Michigan.

Winning the War on Terrorism, Securing America's Homeland

Border Security - *Signed into Law, Approved by House*

- Cosponsored bipartisan legislation signed into law (H.R. 418) to double the number of border patrol agents, close gaping loopholes in our driver's license systems and close asylum loopholes identified by the 9/11 Commission.
- Cosponsored legislation (H.R. 4437) approved by the House to foster strong cooperation between border sheriffs and federal law enforcement, barr terrorist aliens from naturalization, increase penalties for illegal aliens reentering the U.S. illegally, crack down on illegal alien gang members, and combat the hiring of illegal workers.

Defeating Terrorists at Home and Abroad - *Approved by House*

- Worked to renew the PATRIOT Act (H.R. 3199), approved by the House, to improve the ability of law enforcement to defend American's from terrorist attacks without impacting our constitutionally protected civil liberties.
- Helped author bipartisan Intelligence Authorization Act (H.R. 2475), approved by the House, to implement intelligence reforms and prosecute the War on Terrorism overseas.

Stopping Canadian Trash

- Authored bipartisan legislation to allow Michigan to stop Canadian trash shipments (H.R. 593) which was incorporated into the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act (H.R. 2491), approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Getting Federal Spending Under Control

- Worked to approve Deficit Reduction Act (H.R. 4241) which includes common sense reforms to reduce the deficit by \$50 billion.